(b) if so, what are the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) India has been in touch with the concerned parties. It played a significant role in bringing about the first meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Prime Minister Hun Sen of the People's Republic of Kampuchea which broke the deadlock in efforts to resolve the Kampuchean problem.

**Representatives of Foreign Firm dealing with Defence Departments**

1630. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that now no representatives of foreign firms dealing with Defence departments are allowed to represent their foreign principals, if so, since when this practice has been introduced;

(b) whether the department is finding it defficult to negotiate in the absence of local representatives and whether such a situation has any adverse effect on output or efficiency of the department if so, what detailed remedial measures, are considered by Government; and

(c) whether Government are reconsidering the issue of allowing local representatives of foreign firms to represent them, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) From 1980 onwards a series of instructions were issued to regulate the entry of retired Defence Services Officers, foreign suppliers and their Indian agents into the Defence Security Zone. The levels at which foreign suppliers/their agents could be met by officers of the Ministry of Defence, with the prior approval of the concerned Administrative Secretary, were also laid down. *Inter-alia*, it was decided that the Joint Secretaries in the Department of Defence concerned with commercial negotiations for the acquisition of weapons and systems would ensure that agents were disallowed from participation in negotiations which should be conducted directly with the foreign suppliers.

(b) and (c) A Committee had been set up under the chairmanship of the Defence Secretary to *inter-alia*, report on the *modus operandi* of foreign and Indian agents in defence purchases, to suggest necessary steps to eliminate such agents from defence transactions as well as to review and make suggestions regarding streamlining of the existing procedures. This Committee has since submitted its report which is under examination.

**Merger of Non-Public Fund in Consolidated Fund of India in case of Air Force Unit run Canteens**

1631. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that employees of Air Force Unit Run Canteens are not treated as Government Employees on the lines of the Canteen Stores Department Employees as decided by Government vide Ministry of Defence letter No. 8(5)/77/1352/D(MOV);

(b) whether the pay and allowances of Air Force Unit Run Canteen Employees are being disbursed from Non-Public Fund and if so, what are the reasons that the said amount is not merged into Consolidated Fund of India; and

(c) what are the reasons for not merging the Non-Public Fund in Consolidated Fund of India so that the various facilities being provided to air troops can be charged/adjusted against the profits earned by Air Force Unit Run Canteens after the merger?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) The Unit Run Canteens are managed by the concerned units and are run for the welfare of the troops. The employees of these Unit Run Canteens are paid from the profits earned by the concerned canteen. Each canteen is a separate entity